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ASK THE EXPERTS



Living remotely is possible with the right planning and research, says **Lisa Phillips.**

How do you go about seeking a remote location to build or buy and what advice would you give about deciding which location to choose in New Zealand?

If you dream of seeking peace and solitude there are endless locations to live in New Zealand that are "off the grid". But the two main considerations should be your employment and social life. Will you be planning to work remotely or will you be to live within commutable distance of employment? And most people looking for a remote location want to get away from the masses but still have a social life.

Many people long to stake a claim on cheap land in a remote area but we should always remember the adage "you get what you pay for". The dream can become real, however, with thorough due diligence.

Once you have decided how you will use the land, the key is to determine what utilities the property will need, for example different services and telecommunications?

Advances in technology such as video conferencing, skype, and on-line meetings have made communication so much easier and have reduced the need for team members to work under the same roof. Living and working remotely has also given people flexibility with their schedules creating a better work/life balance.

Lisa Phillips is a Director and co-founder of Erskine and Owen, which offers specialised services as a property strategist and buyers agent.



Sacred gifts: Vara Prasada is seclusion with a capital S. If the civilisation ended while you were here, you might not notice for a few days.

Photo: Colin Salt



south with a new Four Square supermarket, a pharmacy, and other shops.

Mangonui is a 10km drive south from Vara Prasada, and the township has a small supermarket and hosts a village market every Saturday morning as well as several very nice restaurants for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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capacity for 200
tiled patio and
including a
is a 6km drive

ON THE MARKET



MURIWAI

223 CONSTABLE RD, PARIHOA FARM

Price: \$8,500,000

Details: 240ha coastal sheep and beef farm. Architectural-award winning home with four bedrooms, two kitchens, a swimming pool and spa and spectacular views of the Tasman Sea between Muriwai and Bethells Beach.

Selling Points: Dramatic coastal views, quality construction, your own recreational park, only 46km to downtown Auckland.

Agent: Tim Collins Smith
Ph: 021 909 149

www.kellands.co.nz/32807



PELORUS SOUNDS, MARLBOROUGH

MACLARENS BAY

Price: \$1,900,000

Details: With 37ha of land surrounding the four-plus bedroom home, a sleep-out, a garage/workshop plus a single stand woolshed to the side of the boatshed.

Selling points: Long sweeping sandy beaches for leisurely strolls plus two registered moorings and only a few minutes' boat ride out to the islands for cod fishing.

Agent: Julee Smith Mischkeski
Ph: 027 246 4134

www.topofthesouthrealestate.co.nz